

## **PEAK PERFORMANCE PROJECT**

### **County-based System for Property Tax Assessment**

#### **The Need:**

Currently, the responsibility for property tax assessment is in the hands of 1,100 individual assessors at the county and township levels. This current system is based on artificial lines dating back to territorial days. It is outdated and inefficient in an era of professional assessing standards and computer technology.

The lack of a common system for property assessment creates the opportunity for inefficiencies and inconsistencies in the assessment of property taxes. Hoosier homeowners and business owners should be served by a system that ensures fairness.

#### **The Change:**

We are proposing the creation of a common system of property assessment that places responsibility in the hands of the state's 92 counties. County-based software systems manage assessment information, and if Indiana moves toward a more centralized information system (as the General Assembly is now studying), the county will remain the primary unit in the statewide system.

This change to a common system, based at the county level, will be a significant step toward eliminating inconsistencies and better ensure uniformity in the assessment process. This proposal would not change the state-level organization, but it will improve the assessment system that state agencies oversee and administer. It accomplishes the Peak Performance goal of increasing accountability, cutting costs and improving results for homeowners, businesses and farmers.

A proposal to move to a common, county-based property assessment system will be submitted to the General Assembly.

#### **The Cost:**

Indiana does not have reliable information on how much its current assessment system costs, so it is impossible to estimate the saving from this change.

A study completed by the Indiana Chamber of Commerce predicted a savings of more than \$11 million statewide each year if property tax assessment was based at the county level.